

20 Aug 82

Dear Mom & Dad,

My sea duty is finally over! I left the ship last evening and spent the night at the Naval Station in Crete. Today I flew to the Naval Station in Sicily where I'll spend the night and fly to Naples tomorrow morning. I'm in VIP quarters tonight - carpeting, easy chairs, TV, refrigerator, and separate bedroom and bath. It's certainly a treat to have a beer after two "dry" weeks!

I feel a little sorry for the crew on Independence since they very likely will be at sea near Lebanon for several weeks until the PLO evacuation is complete.

My latest idea is to travel up through Munich and Berlin then return through Paris to arrive back in Naples on 17 Sep. The ship should be in port soon after but if it's not I'll put my relief, Steve Johnson, on a plane since I have no intention of going back to sea for a long while.

Your drive across the country sounds very exciting and I wish I could join you! If you get tired of driving just call and I'll fly out and drive the rest of the way. But please don't think about going back because we certainly want you to stay through the end of the year.

Love,
Jim